

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 INR-07

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O 301128Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1138

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE AND NAVY REQUISITIONS

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 10615, B) CMAAG 291307Z SEPT 76,

C) CMAAG 3008002 SEPT 76, D) CMAAG 3008022 SEPT 76,

E) CMAAG 3008032 SEPT 76, F) CMAAG 3008042 SEPT 76,

G) CMAAG 3008052 SEPT 76

1. AS REPORTED PARA 3B (4) REFTTEL (B), WE HOLD CERTAIN EMF REQUISITIONS (APPROX. VALUE \$70,000) FOR FY75 MAP BECAUSE OF SHUTDOWN ON OUTGOING DIPLOMATIC POUCHES AND APO MAIL, AND SO INFORMED MINDEF AYALEW WHO ACKNOWLEDGED PROBLEM AND MADE NO PROTEST.

2. THESE REQUISITIONS CAN BE TRANSMITTED TELGRAPHICALLY ACCORDING TO AUTHORIZED U.S. MILITARY SERVICE SUPPLY PROCEDURES. SINCE FY75 MAP FUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO LOSS AFTER TODAY, SEPT 30, WE ARE PROCEEDING TO TRANSMIT REQUISITIONS (REFS C-G) ON ORDER SAFEGUARD FUNDS WITHOUT INFORMING EPMG THAT WE ARE DOING SO. WE REQUEST DEPT AND DOD TO DECIDE HOW THEY WISH TO PROCEED FROM HERE, I.E., TO HONOR THE ELECTRICALLY TRANSMITTED REQUISITIONS OR NOT IN LIGHT OF THE EPMG ACTIONS STOPPING DISPATCH OF MAIL.

3. FOLLOWING ELEMENTS ARE INVOLVED AS WE SEE THEM:

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A. MINDEF HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT POUCH/MAIL SITUATION

WILL RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF REQUISITIONS. HE HAS NOT PROTESTED, AND PRESUMABLY EPMG EXPECTS TO HEAR NO MORE ABOUT THESE REQUISITIONS.

B. IF WE DO NOT PROCESS REQUISITIONS WE DRIVE HOME TO ETHIOPIANS FOLLY OF THEIR DECISION TO INSPECT POUCHES AND MAIL ("CONSEQUENCES" REFERRED TO IN STATE 238052).

C. BY PROCESSING REQUISITIONS WE STAND TO DENY OURSELVES WHAT LITTLE LEVERAGE WE MAY HAVE IN GETTING EPMG TO RECONSIDER POUCH/MAIL SITUATION, PROVIDED THEY BECOME AWARE OF WHAT WE ARE DOING.

D. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT PROCESSING OR NON-PROCESSING OF REQUISITIONS WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO PMAC, WHICH CLEARLY SEES CURRENCY CHANGE AS PARAMOUNT TO ANY OTHER INTEREST AT PRESENT TIME AND, IF WE UNDERSTAND AYALEW CORRECTLY, IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT IMPACT ON ETHIOPIAN INTERESTS.

E. REQUISITIONS ARE NEEDED BY ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES. EXCEPT FOR RELATION TO POUCH/MAIL SITUATION, WE SEE NO OTHER U.S. INTEREST THAT WOULD BE SERVED BY DENYING REQUISITIONS.

4. WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING POSSIBLE SCENARIO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

A. WE GO AHEAD AND RECORD REQUISITIONS.

B. WE DO NOT INFORM EPMG THAT WE HAVE DONE SO.

D. WE DELAY PROCESSING THEM UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIES, LEAVING EPMG UNDER IMPRESSION THAT REQUISITIONS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED, AND THEREBY EXERCISING WHAT LITTLE LEVERAGE WE HAVE HERE NOW.

D. WE DECIDE AT LATER TIME WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH PROCESSING REQUISITIONS DEPENDING UPON OUR JUDGMENT WHETHER THIS WOULD THEN BE IN OUR BEST INTERESTS.

E. WE DO NOT ACCEPT ANY FURTHER REQUISITIONS FOR ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION UNTIL MAIL/POUCH SITUATION IS RESOLVED.

5. IF WE WERE EVENTUALLY TO PROCESS REQUISITIONS AND QUIETLY INFORM ETHIOPIAN MILITARY, IMPACT OF OUR DOING SO WOULD ADMITTEDLY BE MURKY. TO SOME, ESPECIALLY SOME IN ARMED FORCES, BY ACKNOWLEDGING AT A LATER TIME CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT WE FOUND A WAY TO PROCESS REQUISITIONS DESPITE ETHIOPIANS' OWN ROADBLOCKS, WE WILL HAVE ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO HANG IN THERE, AND THAT WE STILL CONSIDER ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY AS IMPORTANT TO OUR INTERESTS. OTHERS, E.G., MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF DIRG, MIGHT SEE IT AS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF USG WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT PASSIVELY SIGNS AND ARROWS DIRECTED OUR WAY, AND BE ESSENTIALLY UNMOVED. OUR

WILLINGNESS PROCESS REQUISITIONS JUST AT THIS TIME,
HOWEVER, COULD BE USED BY MODERATES EVEN IN PMAC TO
COUNTER IRRATIONAL SENTIMENTS WE HEAR FROM TIME TO TIME
BEING EXPRESSED BY MORE RADICAL DIRG MEMBERS ABOUT
U. S. POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS.

6. APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE ON HOW YOU DICIDE TOHANDLE
MATTER. IF POUCH /MAIL CONSIDERATIONS ARE DEEMED OVER-
RIDING AT PRESENT TIME, WE SUGGGEST REQUISITIONS WHICH
BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL, BE QUIETLY KILLED.
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